

SEVERE STORMS FOR SEPTEMBER 1949

[The table hereunder contains such data as have been received concerning severe storms that occurred during the month.]

Place	Date	Time	Width of path, yards	Loss of life	Value of property destroyed	Character of storm	Remarks
Boston and suburbs and western portion of Essex County, Mass.	1	Early morning.				Rain and wind.	Broken power and telephone lines; flooded cellars and streets; small washout on railroad lines.
New York, western, central, and northern portions.	1	All day.		1		Wind.	Cold front caused gusts up to 65 m. p. h. at Buffalo and 50 m. p. h. at Rochester. Trees, power and communication lines blown down. Pears and apples blown from trees, with heavy losses in Oswego area. Boy drowned at Pisco Lake.
Grand Junction and Palisade, Colo.	1	5:40-6:20 p. m.	13		\$9,300	Wind, rain, and hail.	Wind, reaching a velocity of 60 m. p. h., and accompanied by heavy rain and light hail, swept through path 20 miles long from point northwest of Grand Junction to foothills east of Palisade. Damage mostly to picked peaches in orchards, although some losses from bruising and blowing from trees. Telephone and power lines damaged to some extent. A few small buildings wrecked.
Montrose, Colo.	1	7:30-8 p. m.			10,000	Hail.	Damaged growing crops east of Montrose.
Louisiana, southeastern portion.	4	Morning.			12,500	Tropical disturbance.	Developed in area of squalls as it moved inland. Lowest pressure at New Orleans 29.68 and at Grand Isle 29.76 inches. Highest wind at Grand Isle 42 m. p. h. from southeast. Tide at Grand Isle rose to 2 feet above average low water, with west end of island, including road to mainland, inundated. Beach was eroded and some beach cottages damaged. Sugarcane in Terrebonne Parish suffered some damage.
Mississippi, coastal section.	4	Midday.			12,500	do.	Disturbance, which moved northeastward across southeastern Louisiana into southern Mississippi, resulted in winds of 45 to 50 m. p. h. on the coast at Bay St. Louis and Pass Christian. Several piers destroyed, and tung and pecan trees suffered some damage to nearly mature nuts.
Nogales, Ariz.	4	2 to 6 p. m.				Hail and wind.	Fruit, corn, and bean crops badly damaged. Approximately 120 roofs damaged by hail, which reached "golf ball" size at times.
Newark (1 mile west of), Wirt County, W. Va.	4	6 p. m.	440	0	4,600	Tornado, with hail, rain and lightning.	Tornado moved northeastward with path about 1 mile long. Several buildings blown down, roofs blown off several other buildings. 1 cow killed by lightning. 1 person injured by heavy hail. Some damage by heavy rain to contents of buildings, roofs of which were blown off.
Nescopeck-Shickshinny area, Pa.	5	4-10 p. m.				Electrical, wind, rain, and hail.	Barn at Cope's Corners struck by lightning and burned, with heavy loss of crops and equipment. Hick's Ferry section suffered extensive crop damage from hail. Greyhound bus delayed about an hour by heavy rain and hail near Shickshinny. High winds tore down many trees, ripped off screens, and knocked down peaches and apples in orchards.
Muncy, Pa.	6	4-5 p. m.			\$9,000	Electrical.	Barn near Muncy struck by lightning and burned, with loss of stored crops, equipment, tools, and about 100 chickens.
Monroe, N. C.	7				250,000	Rain and flash flood.	Highest water stages in memory of city's oldest residents reached. City water system disrupted by flood.
St. George, Utah.	8	3:30 p. m.			20,000	Thunderstorm and flash flood.	Storm lasted 25 minutes. Damage reported worst from a cloudburst in more than 20 years. Water poured from the Red Hills on north edge of town, bringing muddy, red water through business district and flooding main street and main floors and basements of business houses.
Calexico, Calif.	8	Afternoon.			15,000	Wind, rain, and dust.	Southern and central parts of Imperial Valley received severe wind and dust storm, reported to have originated in Baja Calif. Wind accompanied by rain forced power lines down, lifted an airplane hangar over another hangar and deposited it 150 feet away, blew 2 airplanes into New River, caused damage to local airport totaling \$15,000, uprooted trees, carried away haystacks, and caused interruptions of power and telephone communications. Storm lasted approximately half an hour.
Ash Fork, Ariz.	9	2:15-2:50 p. m.			25,000	Hail and wind.	Nearly every house in Ash Fork suffered some damage. 2 airplanes at nearby field damaged by wind.
St. Augustine, Fla.	9	3-3:20 p. m.				Electrical, wind, and hail.	High wind and heavy hail, with stones of marble size, accompanied thunderstorm. No damage from hail. A few roofs damaged by wind. Lightning interrupted telephone service.
Nantucket Sound, Mass.	9	Late afternoon.		9		Wind.	Small cabin cruiser, carrying 11 persons, disabled and sunk almost immediately by sudden squall and moderate sea; about 2 miles northwest of Nantucket Harbor. 9 persons drowned.
West Palm Beach, Fla.	10	3 p. m.				Wind and rain.	Wind in gusts up to 54 m. p. h. felled 6 feeder-line poles, leaving cities of Palm Beach and West Palm Beach without electric power for several hours. Rainfall for 45-minute period ending at 3:40 p. m. was 3.20 inches.
Glendale and Deer Valley, Ariz.	10	7 to 8 p. m.	12		100,000	Wind and hail.	Many trees and poles down in Glendale. Roof blown off Halstead Lumber Co. Plate glass windows broken in several stores. Rear end of Smith Motor Co. building collapsed after wind blew in side door. Community cotton gin badly damaged by high wind. 1,500 telephones out of order. Hail up to 1 1/4 inches caused up to 30 percent damage to crops in path of storm, which was about 10 miles in length.
Gila Bend, Ariz.	10	Evening.		4	13,500	Thunderstorms and flash floods.	Flash flood blocked Highway 80 about 10 miles north of Gila Bend. Stalled auto washed off highway when irrigation canal above road washed out, drowning 4 persons. Water flooded cotton fields, and washed levees and dams. High winds felled power and telephone lines.
Helena, Mont.	10-11					Snow.	Unseasonably heavy snowstorm of 7.5 inches. Many shade trees which still bore summer foliage broken.
Linn County, Kans.	12	4:45 p. m.	400	1	\$35,000	Tornado.	Storm originated 6 1/4 miles east and 1 1/4 miles south of LaCygne, travelled southeastward for about 3 miles and ended in Missouri. Funnel cloud observed northeast of LaCygne, as it dipped and rose. Several farm properties destroyed. Considerable crop damage.
Amsterdam, Mo.	12	5 p. m.	90-100	1	38,000	Tornado, hail, and rain.	Storm originated in Kansas and struck ground near Amsterdam, Mo. Path on ground 3 1/4 miles long. Farm buildings demolished and crops in fields and in storage damaged by wind and rain. \$8,000 crop damage included in total.
Salem, Mo.	12	9 p. m.				Rain.	Local flooding caused considerable damage to stored goods, and to streets and roads.
Seventy-Six, Mo.	12	During night.		3		do.	3 crew members killed when their engine fell into a normally dry creek, due to rain-weakened trestle of Frisco Railroad Line ST & SF giving way.
Cape and Perry Counties, Mo.	12	During night.				do.	Considerable damage by local flooding. Heavy loss of crops in fields and soil. Construction work hampered, and loss to roads by washing away of gravel stock described as "staggering".
Salt River Valley in Phoenix area, Ariz.	13					Thundershowers and flash floods.	Flash floods from mountains surrounding Phoenix to north and west. Fields badly flooded in Tolleson-Deer Valley areas, necessitating re-seeding of approximately 2,000 acres of winter vegetables. Secondary roads washed out in Pleasant Valley sector.
Friday Harbor, Wash.	15-16					Maritime disturbance.	Estimated wind of 50 m. p. h. did some damage to purse seine fishing fleet in San Juan Islands area. Fleet forced to seek shelter from long-continued southeast to southwest winds.

1 Miles instead of yards.

SEVERE STORMS FOR SEPTEMBER 1949—Continued

Place	Date	Time	Width of path, yards	Loss of life	Value of property destroyed	Character of storm	Remarks
Idaho Falls (west of), Idaho	16	Afternoon				Wind and dust	Disruption of highway traffic, uprooting of trees, and scattering of debris resulted from high winds. 4 persons injured, requiring hospitalization. Clouds of dust necessitated rerouting traffic from main highway running northward to Montana.
Monroe, La.	16	8 p. m.			\$80,000	Electrical	Lightning struck stored tanks of gasoline, setting fire to hangar; hangar 5 small airplanes, equipment, and accessories destroyed.
Great Falls, Mont.	16-17					Wind	Gusts up to 68 m. p. h. by 12:30 p. m., 16th. No damage reported.
Labette County, Kans.	18	12:25 a. m.			200,000	do	High wind from northwest blew down trees, telephone and power lines, and unroofed buildings over much of county. Kansas Ordnance Plant east of Parsons hardest hit and several buildings collapsed.
Monroe County, Pa.	18	6-10 p. m.				Electrical, rain, and hail.	Hailstones more than 1 inch in diameter fell for 20 minutes in Brodheadsville area. Heavy rain in Stroudsburg area for over an hour, resulted in some local flooding. Power service interrupted by lightning hits, with street lights off for several hours in portions of Stroudsburg.
Lincoln, Penobscot, Waldo, and Washington Counties, Maine.	20					Hail	Light to moderate damage to greenhouses and late garden crops at scattered points. Hailstones varied in size from small shot to $\frac{3}{4}$ inch diameter.
Key West, Fla.	23	4:13 p. m.	25	0	0	Waterspout	Small waterspout first sighted about 1 mile east-northeast of Weather Bureau Airport Station, passed over station, and dissipated about $\frac{1}{2}$ mile away.
Du Bois, Pa.	24	12-1 p. m.		2		Electrical	Lightning struck a school chimney then travelled out on wet grass to where a group of children were playing, killing 2 and stunning 4.
Jacksonville, Fla.	24-25					Rain	Airport Station recorded rainfall of 10.13 inches in 24 hours. Streets flooded, but only minor damage. Greatest 24-hour amount at City Office was 4.42 inches.
St. Augustine, Fla.	24-26					do	3.03 inches of rain in 24 hours ending at 8 a. m., 25th. 8.94 inches in next 24-hour period flooded streets and caused minor damage.
Alton, Utah	28	12 noon-1 p. m.				Thunderstorm and flash flood.	Hailstones 2 inches in diameter; roofs destroyed. Rain very heavy for an hour.
Letcher County, Ky.	29	7-7:30 a. m.				Hail and electrical	Neon, Camp Branch, and Sandlick bore brunt of storm. Store windows broken, roofs damaged, and late garden and field crops flattened. Light to heavy hail; stones ranged from $\frac{1}{2}$ to $\frac{3}{4}$ inch in diameter.

DELAYED REPORT FOR AUGUST 1949

Place	Date	Time	Width of path, yards	Loss of life	Value of property destroyed	Character of storm	Remarks
Rupert, Pa.	13	2-3 a. m.				Rain	Washout on Reading Railroad from heavy local rains that culverts unable to carry away.